

Standard 4-4 The student will demonstrate an understanding of the beginnings of America as a nation and the establishment of the new government.

4-4.7: Compare the social and economic differences of the two political parties that began to form in the 1790's, led by Alexander Hamilton and Thomas Jefferson. (H, P, E)

Taxonomy Level: B 2 Understand / Conceptual Knowledge

Previous /Future Knowledge:

This is the first time that the two political parties in the 1790's are taught. However, Thomas Jefferson and Alexander Hamilton are introduced in previous indicators as they relate to the Revolutionary War and our emerging government.

In United States history, students will compare differing economic and political views in the conflict between Thomas Jefferson and Alexander Hamilton that led to the emergence of the American two-party political system (USHC-2.6).

It is essential for students to know:

Social and economic differences among Americans and the different ideas of Thomas Jefferson and Alexander Hamilton helped form **two political parties** in the 1790's.

The Federalist Party was led by **Alexander Hamilton**. Federalists included businessmen, large landowners, and professional people who believed that the country should grow and expand through industrialization. These Federalists felt that the federal government should be stronger than the state governments and should be led by educated persons. They wanted their government to be modeled after the British government.

Thomas Jefferson led the Democratic-Republican or the Jeffersonian Republican Party. The Democratic-Republicans included mostly farmers and common people. Jefferson believed in an agrarian society. His followers believed that most of the power of government should lie in the state governments and that the federal government should remain weak. They admired the French because they believed that the French Revolution was modeled after the American Revolution.

It is not essential for students to know:

It is not essential for students to know the issues that helped to create the different parties such as the difference of opinion over the assumption of state debts, the establishment of a national bank, how to interpret the constitution or whether or not to protect infant industry with a protective tariff. Students do not need to know how these political parties continued to grow and change in future years.

Assessment guidelines:

Appropriate assessments would require students to **compare** the two parties begun by Thomas Jefferson and Alexander Hamilton. Students should be able to **explain** the social and economic differences between supporters of the Federalist and Jeffersonian parties.